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Springfield Union Station work on track for summer 2012

Published: Monday, April 04, 2011, 3:19 PM Updated: Monday, April 04, 2011, 8:38 PM



By **Jim Kinney, The Republican**
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Republican File Photo

07/12/07--Springfield--Staff Photo by Dave Roback--Union Station in Springfield for a story on a proposed intermodal center.

SPRINGFIELD Architects and a project manager have been hired for the proposed oft-delayed \$70-million reconstruction of Springfield's Union Station and work is expected to begin in the early summer of 2012.

Construction work at the station, built in 1926 and vacant since 1973, will ramp up in the fall of 2012 the architect, Donald A. Warner, senior vice president of HDR Architecture Inc. in Boston, said Monday following a news conference in Springfield's City Hall.

Springfield Mayor Domenic J. Sarno said he can understand that people are skeptical about Union Station's future. Plans to refurbish it have been kicking around for more than 30 years.

"This is further than it has ever gotten," Sarno said. "The stars are aligning."

High gas prices are pushing more people to public transportation. Passenger rail is a high priority for both the Obama administration and Gov. Deval L. Patrick. Massachusetts is seriously looking to expand east-west passenger rail from Boston to Springfield.

The states of Connecticut and Vermont are also behind expanded rail service on a north-south corridor following the Connecticut River.

The project is expected to cost a total of about \$70 million. There are \$50 million in state and federal earmarks



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for it in place, although some have expired, said John D. Judge, the city's chief economic development officer. Judge hopes Massachusetts can capture additional federal rail passenger money refused by states like Florida and Ohio.

"If they don't want it, we will take it," Judge said.

Skanska will provide construction management at a cost of \$1.05 million. HDR Architecture out of Boston has a contract for basic design services for \$4.2 million. Union Station is slated to get a 23-bay bus terminal and a 400-space parking garage in addition to retail and office space in addition to a rebuilt train platform.

A more detailed story will appear in tomorrow's editions of *The Republican*

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Springfield was the fifth busiest Amtrak station in Massachusetts in FY2010, boarding or detraining an average of approximately 360 passengers daily. Ridership was up almost 20% last year, if anyone can do it, do it now.....

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01020ishome

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Its about time. Amtrak has been seeing ridership growth for a few years now. Also now that commuter rail to Connecticut is coming, Springfield needs a better station than the one we have now.

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